



Schering-Plough Research Institute

Alexander R. Giaquinto, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President
Worldwide Regulatory Affairs

3340 '99 JAN 25 2030
2030
Kenilworth, New Jersey 07033-0530
Telephone (908) 740-5770
Telefax (908) 740-4131
E-Mail Alexander.Giaquinto@spcorp.com

January 15, 1999

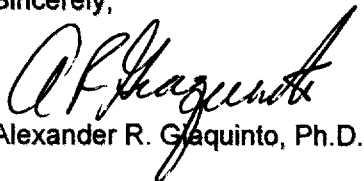
Dockets Management Branch
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: Docket No. 98P-0610
Comments on Citizen Petition

On July 21, 1998 Robert C. Seidman, Pharm.D., M.P.H., Vice President, Blue Cross of California Pharmacy submitted a citizen petition requesting that the agency switch to OTC status the following prescription products: Allegra (60 mg fexofenadine), Allegra-D (60 mg fexofenadine, 120 mg pseudoephedrine), Claritin (5 mg loratadine), Claritin-D (5 mg loratadine, 120 mg pseudoephedrine), Clartin-D 24 Hour (10 mg loratadine, 240 mg pseudoephedrine) and Zyrtec (5 mg cetirizine and 10 mg strengths). We are writing to oppose the grant of this petition.

Schering Corporation developed, manufactures and markets the Claritin products listed in the petition. We believe there are significant reasons why these products should remain restricted to prescription status. We, therefore, respectfully request that this petition be denied.

Sincerely,


Alexander R. Giaquinto, Ph.D.

98P0610

C4